

October 27, 1999

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FDA Commissioner Jane E. Henney
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney,

Bubonic Plague is still around and so are a lot of other pathogens. Antibiotics stand as a shield protecting us from many of the scourges of the past. Why do we, as an educated society, allow activities which erode that shield? It makes no sense to give bacteria advance opportunity to develop resistance to antibiotics by routinely giving antibiotics to healthy animals in their feed. If we are worried about the health of the animals, we should require that they have healthy living conditions. Out of an overriding interest in profits, we, as a society, are making choices which may cause serious harm in our own lifetimes as well in future generations.

Synercid is a current version of the story. It is up to the FDA to develop an understanding of the big picture. How can antibiotics be a blessing in our own lives and those in the future if we distribute them on the streetcorner...or in this case, in the barnyard...to those who are not sick?

Thank you,

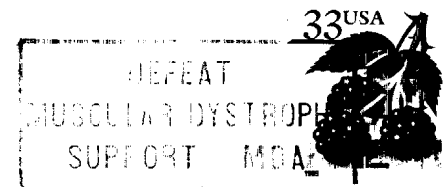


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